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UNCLAS NAIROBI 002583

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E AND AF/RSA
STATE PASS AID
FOR AFRICA/SOMALIA WATCHERS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [SO](#) [KE](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: SOMALIA -- PUBLIC STATEMENT IN RECOGNITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

REF: (A) NAIROBI 2488, (B) NAIROBI 2516

1. (SBU) Reftels outline recent events in the attempts of the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to relocate from Kenya to Somalia. Notable among these has been a surge to the fore of civil society players in Mogadishu, including members of the business community, NGOs, women's organizations, and ordinary citizens. These entities and individuals have managed to steal a march on the politician/warlords of the Parliament, Cabinet, Prime Ministry and Presidency, and force the start of demilitarization of the capital.

2. (SBU) The Department approved the following public statement for release in Nairobi. Post released the statement on June 21, 2005. It (a) acknowledges the actions that the Somali people resident in the capital have taken; (b) stresses that the TFIs can only earn legitimacy from the Somali people, and (c) urges members of the TFIs to relocate to Somalia, agree to a national plan for relocation and security, begin the process of establishing governance, and resolve their remaining differences.

3. (U) BEGIN TEXT PUBLIC STATEMENT:

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2005

The United States welcomes Somali-led efforts to relocate the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions to Somalia.

We note the significant actions taken by members of the business community, non-governmental organizations, and ordinary citizens in recent weeks to facilitate the demilitarization of Mogadishu. In particular, we acknowledge the central role played by Somali civil society in pushing for real and lasting security reform in Somalia.

We are impressed by these individual and collective efforts, led by the women of Mogadishu, to assist those of their countrymen in putting down their weapons and returning to the broad base of Somali society. We are heartened by the sincere desire of the Somali people to facilitate the non-violent return of effective governance to Somalia.

The Somali reconciliation process is at a critical stage. It is imperative that a viable national plan for relocation and security be formally agreed upon by a broad quorum of the members of the Transitional Federal Institutions. This will create the platform from which good governance can be delivered and the Transitional Federal Institutions can earn legitimacy from the Somali people.

Large segments of Somali society have made clear their belief that reconciliation and reconstruction, led by the Transitional Federal Institutions, must begin in earnest. We therefore urge all members of the Transitional Federal Institutions to relocate to Somalia and begin the gradual process of establishing governance.

The United States strongly urges all members of the Transitional Federal Institutions and other Somali parties to continue their efforts towards reconciliation and inclusive dialogue. As with any democracy, the will of the people cannot be ignored. All Somali parties must demonstrate their continued commitment to the peace process and resolve any remaining outstanding differences within the framework of the Transitional Federal Institutions.

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